



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



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Air Force Chief of Staff Named in FBI Contract Probe

May 18, 2006 5:17 PM

Brian Ross and Len Tepper Report:

The Air Force's highest-ranking officer, General T. Michael Moseley, and his predecessor, Gen. John Jumper, are the subjects of an FBI investigation into the handling of a \$49.9 million dollar contract for the Air Force Thunderbirds, the air demonstration squadron.

Law enforcement officials tell ABC News the FBI is investigating allegations the two Air Force generals helped to steer the Thunderbird contract to a friend, retired Air Force Gen. Hal Hornburg.

Six months after leaving the military, Gen. Hornburg, whose command included the Thunderbirds, became a partner in the company that won the contract.

"One of the highest ranking Air Force officers just creates his nest to land in when he leaves the military," said Danielle Brian of the Project on Government Oversight.

Investigators say Gen. Moseley and Gen. Jumper knew their friend was connected with the company when they awarded the contract.

The FBI investigation came about after complaints from Air Force insiders and from a rival company whose bid was for half the amount.

"We don't need it, it's a complete waste of money, and it is unethical the way it came about," said Sen. Tom Coburn of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

The contract was cancelled earlier this year when the Air Force General Counsel questioned the "integrity of the process" and the involvement of four star generals.

The case was referred to the Inspector General for the Department of Defense, and the FBI later joined the investigation.

All three Generals have denied any wrongdoing.

[Click here to read an email on who should handle the Thunderbird contract investigation.](#)

[Click here to read an email on the Thunderbird contract investigation from the Air Force General Counsel to Gen. Michael Moseley.](#)

May 18, 2006 | [Permalink](#)

User Comments

it figures, the good ole boys, scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. it seems once a person get in the government they seem to go on the other side greed, moey it changes everyone. when they get elected they are there to long. why let'em steal to long that's why that ole sayin crooked as a politition

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Posted by: [david](#) | May 18, 2006 5:50:11 PM

Is it that difficult to do the right thing?

Posted by: [David Evans](#) | May 18, 2006 6:22:01 PM

Hey, according to the story, they DENIED any wrongdoing...so I guess they will get off scott-clean. Sounds like our CIC and his buddies...good god! They take their example from the very top.

Posted by: [mcbass](#) | May 18, 2006 6:31:29 PM

Moseley and Hornburg are both Texas A&M grads. Coincidence? Sort of like the recent deal with Maj Gen Jack Catton using his government computer to send out an email soliciting support for a "Christian" congressional candidate, Bentley Rayburn. Both of THOSE dudes are US Air Force Academy grads. It's the "old school tie".

Posted by: [Mark Shanks](#) | May 18, 2006 6:59:06 PM

Just one of many that have been caught. I saw it all the time, actually still do. Not just in the military but other government offices. Someone retires, goes to for a company A. Next thing you know company A is awarded a contract. What's new in the corrupt world of our government? Nothing.

Posted by: [Pete White](#) | May 18, 2006 7:07:20 PM

Gee, so much for "Innocent Until Proven Guilty." You know, just maybe they were the bidder that provided the most value. Based on my experience, some companies bid low, then give poor service. But, I guess if the FBI is investigating them, they must be guilty...right?!?

If the FBI needs work, let them look at all the contracts throughout government and find out how bad these contractors are sticking it to taxpayers!

Posted by: [tcox](#) | May 18, 2006 7:12:23 PM

Senior Officers--be they Colonels or Generals--are famous for their corrupt behaviour. The power they possess and the budgets they control would astound the average tax payer. Unless and until you serve on active duty, you cannot fathom the degree of corruption. They outright steal from the coffers of the federal government and, in most cases, get promoted anyway. Look into the GAO numbers on the cost to move a General Officer into a base house. If that home was only lived in by the previous general for a few months; new carpet, drapes, appliances and on and on will be installed at an expense of about 40K. A maid will be paid for by the government and a gardener will be provided for each General for as long as he/she resides in military base housing. The general I worked for at Lackland AFB couldn't even put the rock salt into his special order water softener. A government civilian was paid 200.00 per month to do that chore. When we talk about the "American Soldier" and the hardships he faces, that is a very true statement. The majority of men and women serving in uniform can qualify for food stamps, they are paid so little. The 4-Star Generals may only make 125-150K per year but the perks make that salary MUCH higher.

Posted by: [kh](#) | May 18, 2006 7:13:25 PM

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If taxpayers are going to be saddled with an "investigation" everytime someone complains, maybe we should have a permanent team in place for political correctness on each and every bid. Give the team a percentage of what they save the taxpayers over and above excessive bid cost and investigative costs!!!

Posted by: [Bruce](#) | May 18, 2006 7:26:27 PM

1) YOU REPORT: Gen Moseley and Gen Jumper are SUBJECTS of an investigation.

TRUTH: Only retired Gen Hornburg is a subject, the others are witnesses.

2) YOU REPORT: Gen Moseley and Gen Jumper "awarded the contract."

TRUTH: The contract was awarded by competitive bid and the selection was made in the discretion of the Source Selection Authority, a Colonel working at Air Combat Command.

3) YOU REPORT: The contract was cancelled after the Air Force General Counsel questioned the integrity of the process.

TRUTH: An unsuccessful bidder filed a protest and the Air Force cancelled the contract due to mistakes in the selection process completely unrelated to either Gen Moseley or Gen Jumper.

As ABC knows (or should), the Air Force is strictly prohibited from commenting on an ongoing FBI investigation. So you incorrectly report Gen Moseley and Gen Jumper are subjects, and they can do nothing to defend themselves.

A year from now when the FBI has completed their investigation and Gen Moseley and Gen Jumper are cleared, will you report your errors? You are here to check up on our government, and I have respect and gratitude that you do, but in this case you failed to report accurately and innocent careers are being damaged.

Oxy

Posted by: [pjk](#) | May 18, 2006 7:36:20 PM

Please! The officers in each of the services at that level begin to loose sight of the rules and regulations. They make up there own rules to satisfy the egos. The people that are in charge of bringing charges against these people are afraid that if they make ways they'll loose there own ranks and retirements. There are no ethics in the higher ranks.

Posted by: [Retired](#) | May 18, 2006 7:40:13 PM

I see every day Americans cheat lie and steal not just the rich and powerful. Don't be so quick to throw stones when most of us live in glass houses.

Posted by: [steven marler](#) | May 18, 2006 8:02:20 PM

Rein in your knee-jerk reactions. This is another classic case of the media trying to take out the knees of the visibly high-ranking before the investigation even starts. Get real--there's no 4-star willing to put his

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30-year career on the line for a Thunderbird music display. As long as we're starting the hanging before the jury gets here, I submit that the bidder that lost had a vastly inferior product that lost in a fair contract bid, got his nose bent, and is going for the most visible jugular of the winning bidders.

Posted by: [Dean](#) | May 18, 2006 8:05:52 PM

It sounds like bull to me.

What is wrong with a retired general working for a company that sells products to the Air Force. Who better to know what is needed and how to go about providing the service.

As long as the bid was a proper competitive bid and the services are actually provided as the contract requires, there is no problem.

Losing bidders always have the right to file a complaint and if the complaint is found to be worthy then the bid/contract may be reviewed or revoked. SO what is wrong with that? It is a good process and apparently worked in this case. As long as the entire process is subject to public review and the losing bidders are given a fair hearing on their complaint, there is nothing to complain about.

Much ado about bull I think.

We have much bigger problems with supply to the combat units of proper equipment and that is the real scandal. Proper vehicles and outfits to protect from projectiles was not provided. It caused the death and injury of many of our men. That is what we should be screaming about. And that is NOT caused by retired Generals. It is caused by the uncaring and incompetent staff now working in the Pentagon and now working in procurement. To see our men unnecessary injured or killed is unforgivable. SO this other stuff is nonsense. kenny

Posted by: [kenny](#) | May 18, 2006 8:46:49 PM

The concept is nothing new. Those kinds of connections and deals are everywhere inside most companies I have worked for. I would estimate more than half of American employees have encountered the same. It's more commonly called "the boys club", which is vert descriminating.

Posted by: [Andrew](#) | May 18, 2006 9:04:30 PM

It would be helpful to hear the other side of the story. The slant on this seems to be very one-sided. Why not give your audience a chance to decide after hearing ALL the information.

Posted by: [eric](#) | May 18, 2006 9:21:24 PM

The arrogance and abuse of power exists everywhere. The military, politics, corporate america, anywhere something can be acquired for nothing because of who you are. I have been puzzled for 40 years how those who can afford the most expect the most for nothing.

Posted by: [JR](#) | May 18, 2006 10:01:46 PM

Reminds me of how that limosine service with the bankrupt felon owner got the DHS contract even though he was underbid by someone else with a better service record. That story also has the military slant in it(hookers also), with Republican Duke Cunningham playing a supporting actor role.

Posted by: [Pat](#) | May 19, 2006 12:40:51 AM

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In view of the culture of corruption that pervades ALL military contract-awarding, and, in view of the national problems which originate within the D.O.D., I suggest that the next BRAC cycle should start with the closure of the Pentagon.

Jack Abramoff, Mitchell Wade, Wilkes...and on and on...just how much crookedness are Americans suppose to accept before some kind of rebellion?

dumasmud

Posted by: [dumasmud](#) | May 19, 2006 12:45:29 AM

"Integrity First"

"Service Before Self"

etc.

These are the Air Force "core values" and it is all BS as you can see. Where there's a buck to be made, the military is no worse than, and no better than, anyone else. Sad but true

Posted by: [km](#) | May 19, 2006 3:09:29 AM

Integrity First

Service Before Self

These are the Air Force Core Values. What BS!

Posted by: [katem](#) | May 19, 2006 3:23:38 AM

Not sure if this is just my perception, but is this country starting to develop third world corruption problems!

Posted by: [JP](#) | May 19, 2006 4:05:59 AM

Dean, Kenny and Andrew are correct -- there is another side -- the truth -- which was repeatedly told to these reporters which they ignored INCLUDING the fact that this company intended to get this to the USAF FOR FREE. ABC ignored that. USAF lawyers and contracting forced this through detailed competitive bidding and knew everything about this including Hornburg's proper involvement during the one year cool down period. If a problem existed during the contracting process they would have never let it go through the process. Hornburg violated nothing -- why put a 36 year career on the line for this. Ask ABC about it. See if they post it.

Posted by: [JESH](#) | May 19, 2006 4:56:13 AM

What you people don't understand is that once we've screened, trained, educated and battle-hardended men like like, they deserve anything they can get. I know the Liberals don't want to admit it, but there are classes of people, and these great men are of a higher class, a better breed. Give them what they want, for they keep you safe and sound. Do what they say, for they keep you isolated from the evils of the World. Smoke your cigarettes and eat your McDonald's in ignorance of what is really going on in the World. Stay uneducated and leave them alone to protect you.

Posted by: [Wilksey](#) | May 19, 2006 6:36:14 AM

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Keesler AFB, Miss.



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Keesler airman jailed in nightclub shooting

Biloxi police on Monday arrested Yderian Xavier Grimes, 22, on an aggravated assault charge in connection with a shooting reported at The Boulevard, a nightclub at 1757 Beach Blvd.

A bullet grazed the victim's arm, but the victim declined medical treatment, said Police Capt. Rick Kirk. The shooting occurred May 6.

Grimes, an airman stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, was held at the Harrison County jail on \$50,000 bond set by Justice Court Judge Bruce Strong.

rfitzgerald@sunherald.com

10-story condo approved at Emerald Beach site

A 10-story condominium will be built on the south side of Beach Boulevard where the Emerald Beach Motor Hotel operated before Hurricane Katrina.

The Biloxi City Council on Tuesday approved plans for the Bienville Condominiums Complex. Its units will vary from 734 square feet to five penthouses containing 3,284 square feet, said Mike Boudreaux with Gulf Coast Investment Developers.

- TOM WILEMON

tewilemon@sunherald.com



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At Columbia, First ROTC Event Since '72

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At Columbia, First ROTC Event Since '72

BY SHLOMO GREENWALD - Special to the Sun

May 17, 2006

URL: <http://www.nysun.com/article/32885>

On Friday, Columbia University will host a Reserve Officers' Training Corps commissioning ceremony, the first such ceremony since 1972, when student military organization were evicted from campus. A dozen cadets from nine area universities will be commissioned as active duty second lieutenants in the United States Air Force.

"This demonstrates the commitment by Columbia to the military," the driving force behind the ceremony, cadet Robert Wray, said. Mr. Wray graduated from Columbia yesterday and will be commissioned on Friday in the Low Library Rotunda. "Columbia doesn't hate the military. They respect those involved in it."

That respect has been a long time coming. In 1969, with anti-Vietnam War sentiment at its peak, Columbia barred ROTC from the campus. The ban has not been lifted; a year ago, the university senate voted 53-10 to maintain it. Columbia students who want to join the training corps must do so at the local detachments - for the Army at Fordham University in the Bronx, and for the Air Force at Manhattan College in Riverdale.

Another Columbia ROTC cadet who played an active role in getting the commissioning ceremony on campus, Sean Wilkes, said the university has reached out to the ROTC students by "making the program work with their schedule, to improve the lives of cadets." Mr. Wilkes, the chairman of the campus group, Advocates for Columbia ROTC, will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army at Fordham on Friday.

Other students were more skeptical. "I'm surprised it's happening actually," a Marine Corps reservist, Matt Sanchez, said. "Most people in the university, including the administration, are very biased against the military."

Conservative students not in the ROTC charged the university with hypocrisy. "It's ridiculous that people who promote tolerance and diversity are the same people who try to keep out the alternate lifestyle - that is, ROTC - from our school," an active member of the College Republicans, Peter Law, said.

Still others oppose the ceremony outright.

"It's pretty disingenuous to not allow the ROTC on campus but then allow the officer induction ceremony," a graduating senior who sported a "McCain does not speak for me" protest button during graduation exercises yesterday, Jacob McKean, said. Senator McCain was the commencement speaker.

<http://www.nysun.com/pf.php?id=32885>

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The commissioning ceremony is sponsored by the students, not the university.

"Columbia supports our students who choose to pursue careers in the military through ROTC programs at neighboring universities and through other avenues," a spokeswoman, Susan Brown, said in a statement. "We also work in partnership with the United States government and its institutions, including the military."

Referring to the vote against the ROTC last year, Ms. Brown said, "The vote of the university senate does not change those essential facts."

Despite the thaw, other university officials maintain their opposition to ROTC on campus. "I opposed the proposal to invite ROTC to return to Columbia because the "don't ask, don't tell" policy of the Pentagon is in direct contradiction of the University's own non-discrimination policies," the provost, Alan Brinkley, said in an e-mail to The New York Sun. "At the same time, I have great respect for the men and women who serve in our armed forces, including the Columbia students who have chosen to enroll in ROTC programs on neighboring campuses." Mr. Brinkley will attend the commissioning ceremony.

The chairman of the alumni organization, Columbia Alliance for ROTC, Theodore Graske, welcomed the ceremony. "This event and others like it are long overdue," he said. "We hope that this is the first of many steps by Columbia to better support students who wish to participate in the ROTC program."

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